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Bonn says it doubts KGB inspired pope's shooting

Bonn (Reuter)—West German security authorities cast serious doubts yesterday on reports that Western intelligence suspects the Soviet KGB of inspiring the attempted killing of Pope John Paul II.

The federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, West Germany's counterintelligence and anti-terrorist agency, said allegations in British news media about a Soviet role in the attack were viewed as speculation.

"This cannot be confirmed by any information available to us," a spokesman at the agency's headquarters in Cologne said. "We have no such knowledge."

British newspapers and television reported last week that the Vatican was convinced the Soviet secret service had a hand in the attack. *The Times* of London said Western intelligence, particularly West Germany's, was backing the theory.